**Discussing Quotations, Sayings and Proverbs**

**1.** There are famous sayings:

• "A house becomes a home when love dwells there".

• "There is no place like home", "East or West, Home is Best".

• "Men make houses, women make homes".

• "My home is my castle".

• "Show me your home and I'll tell you who you are".

Give your comments.

**2.** Agree or disagree with these quotations; your opinion should be followed by some appropriate comment where possible:

• "All happy families resemble one another, each unhappy family is unhappy in its own way." (Leo Tolstoy)

• "Home is the girl's prison and the woman's work­house." (G.B. Shaw)

**3.** Try to explain how you understand these proverbs:

• "As the baker - so the buns, as the father - so the son";

• "As the tree - so the fruit";

• "There is a black sheep in every family".

**4.** How do you understand these sayings about *friend­ship*:

• The only way to have a friend is to be one. (Emer­son, "Friendship", essays: First Series 1841)

• A true friend is one soul in two bodies. (Aristotle)

• Friends are like melons. To find one good, you must a hundred try. (Claude Mermet)

• Before you look for friends you'd better become your own best friend.

• Friends show their love in times of trouble, not in happiness. (Euripides, Orestes, 408 ВС)

• One loyal friend is worth ten thousand relatives. (Euripides, Orestes, 408 ВС)

• Your friend is the man who knows all about you, and still likes you. (Elbert Hubbard, The Note Book, 1927)

• "A friend is a person with whom I may be sincere. Before him I may think aloud". Confirm or refute these words of Emerson.

**5.** Explain your understanding of the proverbs:

• "Show me your friend, and I'll tell you who you are."

• "Friendship cannot stand always on one side."

• "Actions speak louder than words."

• "A friend in need is a friend indeed."

• "A friend is never known till a man has need."

• "A good friend is as sun in winter."

• "When you are good to others, you are best to yourself."

6. Explain your understanding of the poem:

Friendship is a thing for two,

Three or four, even more, Like a song that is made to sing Friendship is a doing thing.

Friends are people who share,

Friends are people who care.

They try to understand.

They give a helping hand.

**7.** Henry Longfellow, a famous American poet of the 19th century wrote, "*Be noble* in every thought and in every deed!"

Did Longfellow want his readers to be honest with themselves and with other people? Discuss what the poet meant by these words.

**8.** Here are English proverbs:

"Doing is better than saying";

"Actions speak louder than words."

Give your own explanation of them.

**9.** How can you explain the sayings: "When you are good to others, you are best to yourself." Give ex­amples from books and from your own life.

**10.** How can you explain these words?

• Men and melons are hard to know.

• The same man cannot be both friend and flatterer.

• He that cannot obey, cannot command.

• A lie stands on one leg, truth on two. *(Benjamin Franklin)*

**11.** Explain the proverb:

When wealth is lost, nothing is lost; When health is lost, something is lost; When character is lost, all is lost.